

## 2020 - 2021 Camrose Ski Club Head Coach Report

First off, I would like to thank all the coaches, volunteers and the board. It truly was a challenging year for all aspects of the programs, but it was a fun year all things considered. I especially want to thank Leigh Heie, Graeme Thain and Johan Wichers for helping me through this season and answering all my questions about the different programs.

Junior Racers & Track Attacks - Considering the year we have had without racing, we have still seen growth, learning and most importantly I see strong motivation going forward. Balancing fun with development was interesting, we definitely saw enthusiasm in athletes go up and down throughout the season based on training and racing opportunities, as well as rolling restrictions. The grooming staff did a fantastic job with what little snow we received. The Ole Uffda was a great success, with many of our club's athletes participating. We also had some news coverage! A great article in the Camrose Booster with Greg King discussing the club and our beautiful trail system, and Ole Heie speaking with CBC Radio Edmonton about his massive 100km ski. In other fantastic news, Natalie Thain has accepted a spot with the Alberta World Cup Academy for next year, and Ava Heie has accepted a spot on the Alberta Development Team

Jackrabbits, Bunnies, Bunny Rabbits - A Lot of accommodations had to be made this year with rolling restrictions especially in these groups. Our coaches did a fantastic job providing a fun and safe environment for all participants. Speaking with coaches all reported having a great year with many returning next year. Based on the growth in these groups, I would say our biggest area to increase for next season is coaching.

Adult XC - Speaking with Ben Osario and Derek Stollery; They were very happy with the season, and participants enjoyed the training. Even extending their sessions based on requests. I want to thank Ben for his work this past year, he will be missed next season and I wish him good luck on his next adventure. I would also like to thank Tammy Richard for all her work with these groups, we appreciate all of her hard work for the club and look forward to seeing her on the trails. We will work together for a plan for next season on how to grow and support these groups.

University - The university faced some difficulty with having their own restrictions on training this year. It was a very tough year as almost no in person training was conducted. Based on conversations with athletes, overall most were happy with the provided training plan and suggestions. Derek Stollery was a great addition as my assistant, and I look forward to working with him to ensure a smooth change over from Nils Asfeldt to us. I believe we have a great opportunity to expand how the club and university interact with more understanding and clarity going forward.

Biathlon - With echoes of the other programs biathlon did well, there were lots of positives. The program absolutely would not have been as successful without Gary Snyder, a big thank you goes to him. He came out to almost every practice, groomed amazing trails, repaired any targets that had issues and was an all around great support to the team. The program has growing strength and I believe next season will really show how strong we are getting as a team. Some highlights for the season; Allyson Thain and Dawson Ferguson competed in the Biathlon Canada virtual shooting competition. Congratulations to Ella Boyd for receiving the 2020 Biathlon Alberta Junior Top Gun Award (72.22% Shooting Average) and to Ava Heie, who won an Alberta Biathlon Club Gernot Kostera award.

Overall the club has had a good year and many accomplishments individually and as a whole. The club is asking some great questions through the board and coaching committee, I look forward to hearing more from that. Thank you for the opportunity this year to be your head coach and I hope we can all work alongside each other to continue to grow these great sports in Camrose.